

**DAMARIS PIMENTEL - ULTRA BEAUTY SALON
BOSTON, MA (Jamaica Plain)
Friday August 17, 2012 at 12:00pm**

My editor's best friend Andrea Fleck Clardy suggested I interview her hairdresser, Damaris Pimentel at Ultra Beauty Salon located a few blocks away from her house. She offered us (my mother who is also my field assistant) a place to stay for the few days we were in town so we had an opportunity to spend more time in the neighborhood.

Jamaica Plain is a neighborhood in Boston that is in the process of becoming gentrified. Old restaurants, convenient stores, hair salons and barbershops sit right alongside upscale restaurants, clothing boutiques and high-end grocery stores such as Whole Foods. While sitting on a park bench on Centre Street, the main street through Jamaica Plain, local residents which consisted mostly of Latinos, Caucasians and college students walked by. The evening before the interview we ate dinner at a neighborhood Latin restaurant that had been a part of the community for many decades. It was so authentic we needed help with the menu. Everyone spoke Spanish. It felt as though we were in a different country. We had a great meal.

We arrived at Ultra Beauty Salon at noon. It's unlike any beauty shop on the street. It has an upscale appearance with a large curved glass façade. Damaris was very down to earth and forthcoming about the changes taking place in her neighborhood. After the interview I photographed her styling her receptionist's hair. We left around 3:00pm.